



(Genesis 32-34), John 10:10, Psalm 23:1-6

“An Excursus: Life Abundant”

Pastor Patrick Bowler

9-18-2022

Consult the Scriptures:

John 10:10 (cf. v. 1-21)

Psalm 23:1-6

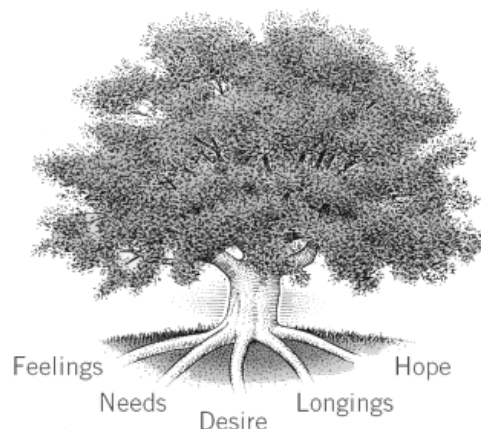
(Genesis 32-34)

(Other Scripture referenced: 1 Pet. 1:16; Jn. 1:14, 16:33; Josh. 1:5; Heb. 4:15)

Consult the Scholars:

The Spiritual Root System™

A Guide to Full Living



Chip Dodd—

“If your heart does not draw deeply from the emotional and spiritual nourishment of relationship, you will suffer and unintentionally grow into a spindly bush that never fully lives. If you grow up in a world where feelings are shamed, needs bastardized, desires thwarted, longings minimized, and hope diminished, then your roots do not receive the nourishment needed for growth. You are taught to ignore or be ashamed of how you are truly made...” (Dodd, *The Voice of the Heart* [Sage Hill Resources, 2001], p. 8, 10)

“...We quit drinking deeply from the waters of emotional and spiritual life. We quit trusting the heart’s thirst to be known, seen, fed, and expanded. Instead of remaining vulnerable to growth, we resign our hearts to blocking all intrusions of relationship (and, ultimately, love) because of the fear that: (1) relationship is not real, and (2) relationship is real, but it will not last. (Dodd, *The Voice of the Heart* [Sage Hill Resources, 2001], p. 10)

Discuss:

1. Read John 10:1-21 and discuss (focusing on v. 10). What did Jesus mean when he said, *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly?”* (Jn. 10:10).¹
2. Read Psalm 23 and discuss. How does this passage inform our understanding of Jesus’ words in Jn. 10, particularly v. 10?
3. Look at the above image (*i.e. The Spiritual Root System*) and discuss. Chip Dodd identifies the five above roots as *“the characteristics of the heart,”* and he says that we need to get those roots deep into *“the waters of relationship”* is we are to grow and mature. What do you think he means? Can you put it into your own words?
4. Read the above quotes by Dodd and discuss. What came up for you as you read? Are you able to relate? If so, with what part and why?
5. Dodd says, in survival mode, *“we focus on the appetite of our stomachs”* rather than *“the hungers of our heart.”* What do you think he means by that? Can you relate? Are you merely surviving rather than thriving (*i.e. “abundant” life*)?

¹ Be careful not to neglect the context of the passage as a whole.

6. What examples come to mind when you consider Jesus' emotional health?
7. What came up for you as Pastor Patrick told his story of the last 4.5 years? Are you planning on being at church on Oct. 2 to hear Jeff Schulte (Tin Man Ministries) preach?
8. What immediate applications can be made in light of this sermon? What question do you still have? Do you need to speak with someone? A pastor? A friend? Your CG leader?
9. Pray for the weekend of Sept. 30-Oct. 2 as Tin Man Ministries comes in to work with our leaders and staff.